

FOR FURTHER DEFINITIONS OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS, GO TO WWW.GRACECHURCHSC.ORG/SPIRITUALGIFTS



Spiritual Gifts Defined

We believe that spiritual gifts are supernatural manifestations of the Holy Spirit in believers. Many people only think of spiritual gifts as the "sign gifts," which include tongues, healing, and prophecy, but there are several other spiritual gifts defined in Scripture.

Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 give us a thorough explanation of the New Testament gifts, although respected biblical scholars disagree on the meaning and distribution of these gifts. Many believe that signs and wonders were used in the New Testament to help people recognize and believe in Christ, while also authenticating the authority of the apostles at the time, but that they are now not available to believers. Others argue that "sign gifts" should be sought and performed today for God's glory and others' good.

However, both views at the extreme hold their own inconsistencies. On one end of defining spiritual gifts, some maintain the view that nothing has changed between the day of Pentecost in Acts and the present.

However, we know from examples in Scripture that some things are dramatically different, such as the apostles ability to heal changing over the course of the New Testament (Acts 5:12-16, Acts 20:7-12, 2 Timothy 4:20) and the admonition to the elders in James to pray for healing of the sick rather than directly performing the miracle of healing (James 5:14-15). The other end of the spectrum includes people who believe the "sign gifts" have completely ceased, which is not explicitly stated in Scripture.

We believe that it is possible to find unity over these differences, although we do not believe that the "sign gifts" can be considered a mark of spiritual maturity. Past this belief, we recognize that there are some differences in thoughts, opinions, and experiences in defining spiritual gifts. The one true Source we can return to without fault is Scripture. The following chart helps us define each gift through the information that the Bible gives to us.

GIFT	DEFINITION	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE(S)	NOTES
Discernment	To clearly distinguish truth from error by judging whether the behavior or teaching is from God or Satan.	1 Corinthians 12:10	
Encouragement	To come alongside someone with words of exhortation, comfort and counsel.	Romans 12:8	
Faith	To be confidently convinced of God's power and promises to accomplish His will and purpose.	1 Corinthians 12:9	
		Romans 12:8	

In Greek, this is in the plural and implies different people have different healing gifts. Someone with a healing gift will not be able to heal at will, but when God wills, Paul was able to heal many people (Acts 14:10, 16:18, 19:12, 20:9-10), but was seemingly unable to heal at other times (Phl. 2:26-27, 1 Tim. 5:23, 2 Tim. 4:20).

It is necessary if the body of believers is to benefit. (1 Cor. 12:7, 13:1, 14:1-25)

spoken in human words, so there could be mistakes and therefore should be evaluated (1 Thess. 5:21). Should be used to build the church (1 Cor. 14:3) or prophetically (1 Cor. 14:24-25). Prophecy is not in the same way as Scripture, but is understood by Scripture.

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ROMANS 12:6-8

serving

teaching

encouraging

contributing

mercy

prophecy

leadership

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EPHESIANS 4:11

apostle

prophet

evangelist

pastor-teacher

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1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-10

word of wisdom

word of knowledge

distinguishing between spirits

gifts of healing

interpretation of tongues

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1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-10

faith

tongues

miracles

prophecy